

SALVATION IS A CHANGE IN THE BELIEVING SINNER

Jesus has the power and the willingness to change our motivations, our desires, and our actions when we cooperate with Him in our new relationship. Jesus is the Way by which believers in Him escape sin and its penalties. Righteous actions in the life of the believer are initiated by and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Believers in Jesus are called “righteous” in Christ. The “righteous in Christ” are moved out from under the wrath of God because God has no wrath toward righteousness. John 3:36

God never excuses our sin. We should never excuse our sin. If we make excuses for our sin this will lead to negative consequences of pain and sorrow.

The righteous new creation in Christ has escaped the wrath of God, has escaped the penalty for sin, and should desire to escape from sin. Sin hurts us and leads to broken relationships. Believers are indwelt by the Spirit and do not have to yield to sin. Say no to sin and yield to the power of the Spirit and you will save yourself a lot of misery.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:2

The righteousness of the law may be fulfilled in us, who walk after the Spirit. Romans 8:4

Jesus paid a high price so that believers can be changed into new creations and released from our bondage to sin. Jesus, the New Adam, is man’s God-given substitute for Adam (Romans 5). Sinless Jesus died physically under the crush of our sin so that we don’t have to remain in bondage to sin. Sin is condemned for its most atrocious act of killing the innocent Son of God. The sinless death of Jesus condemned sin to extinction and Jesus is given all power and authority to remove sin from believers and ultimately from all creation. Jesus is the believer’s replacement for Adam. The believer will die in Christ yet live eternally. The unbeliever will die in Adam still under bondage to sin and condemnation.

Sin is serious. Believers should be conscious of the cost of sin removal and participate in the indwelling power of the Spirit over sin. A transformed life is the goal of the gospel. Romans 12:1,2

God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Christ, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. Colossians 1:19 The sinless shed blood of Jesus condemns sin to extermination.

God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.

2 Corinthians 5:19a

Provisional reconciliation and provisional forgiveness is freely given to all mankind, but a person must respond properly to God and receive judicial forgiveness and judicial reconciliation when prompted by Holy Spirit conviction in order to receive eternal life. All of creation will be reconciled to God through Christ and all sin will be removed from creation by grace or by fiery judgment depending on a person's response.